

February 20, 1900.

Dr. HENRY WOODWARD, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Oldfield Thomas exhibited the skin of a small Kangaroo which had been presented to the British Museum by the Society's President, the Duke of Bedford. It had lived some little time at Woburn, and was said to have been brought from Queensland or North Australia.

It was most nearly allied to the West Australian *Macropus eugenii* Desm., with which it agreed in size and skull-characters, but differed in its uniform pale colour and remarkably soft thick fur.

Mr. Thomas proposed to call it *Macropus bedfordi*, and described it as follows:—

Size as in *M. eugenii*. Fur long, thick, soft, and woolly, the hairs of the back 33–35 mm. in length. General colour uniform pale isabelline fawn, quite different from the dark colour of *M. eugenii*. The hairs are slaty grey at their bases, then brown, with a whitish subterminal band and a pale brown tip. Centre of face like back, slightly darkening in middle line between ears and down the neck to form a faintly darker nuchal line. Face-markings almost obsolete, the usual light cheek-line but little lighter, and the dark orbital and ramal streaks scarcely darker than the general colour. Ears short, their backs terminally sandy fawn, basally and a patch below their bases externally dull white. Chin and throat dull white; chest and belly whitish fawn, but little lighter than the sides. Inguinal region, front of hips, and a line down the front of the lower leg white. Shoulders and outer sides of fore limbs like body, with scarcely a trace of rufous; an indistinct darker elbow-mark present; hands whitish brown above. Legs sandy brown behind and laterally, white in front; upper surface of feet sandy white, not darkening terminally, the long hairs at the base of the claws clear yellowish white. Tail short, thick, sandy fawn above and on the sides, whitish below, not darkening terminally.

Skull much as in *M. eugenii*. Disproportion rather greater than usual between the small permanent premolar ( $p^3$  of modern nomenclature)<sup>1</sup> and the large square  $mp^1$  ( $m^1$  of the Catalogue of Marsupials).

Dimensions of the type, measured in skin:—Head and body 550 mm.; tail 360; hind foot 115; ear, from notch, 52.

Skull: basal length 83; greatest breadth 49; nasals  $34 \times 15.5$ ; interorbital breadth 16; diastema 20.5; length of  $p^3$  4.5; combined length of three anterior grinding-teeth ( $mp^1-m^2$ ) 17.

*Type.* Female. B.M. No. 0.2.19.1. Presented by the Duke of Bedford.

This little Wallaby differs from its only near ally, *M. eugenii*,

<sup>1</sup> See Lydekker, P. Z. S. 1899, p. 922.

by its long fur and peculiar pale body-colour, which latter indeed seemed to be quite unique within the genus.

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Mr. Thomas also exhibited a Kangaroo which had been sent to him from Western Australia by Mr. Bernard H. Woodward, Curator of the Museum at Perth.

Judging by its skull and more essential characters, it seemed to be assignable to *Macropus robustus*, the Wallaroo, of which Mr. Slater's *M. erubescens* was the South and Central Australian representative. Its colour, however, was so different from either the Eastern or Central forms of the species that Mr. Thomas thought it necessary to distinguish it as a local subspecies, for which he suggested the name *Macropus robustus cervinus*.

With the exception of the head (which was greyish brown, much as in *M. r. typicus*), the whole of the upper surface was of a deep rufous fawn, the hairs being of this colour to their bases. In both *M. r. typicus* and *M. erubescens* the general colour was grey, the latter being rufous across the shoulders. Tips of dorsal hairs black. The chin, throat, and centre of the belly were whitish, not sharply defined. The limbs also more whitish than the body, but darkening to black on the tips of the fingers and toes. The tail was pale sandy rufous, its extreme tip above black.

The skull and dentition were apparently quite similar to those of the true *M. robustus*, except that, in common with *M. erubescens*, the third upper incisor was less elongated.

Hind-foot of type, without claw, 241 mm.

Skull—basal length 128 mm.; greatest breadth 76.5; nasals  $58 \times 22$ ; diastema (to  $p^3$ ) 36; combined length of three anterior grinding-teeth 32; horizontal length of  $i^3$  8.6, of  $p^3$  8.

*Hab.* Pinda Station, Yalgoo, Murchison District, Western Australia.

*Type.* Female (immature). B.M. No. 0.2.6.6.; original number 1213. Killed 15th August 1899, by the Perth Museum collector. Two specimens examined.

Native name "Picquarda."

With the specimens of *Macropus r. cervinus*, Mr. Woodward had also sent several examples of the Red Kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*), a species which, when the Catalogue of Marsupials was published, was not certainly known to inhabit Western Australia<sup>1</sup>. These examples were also from the Murchison District, and seemed to agree with the ordinary *M. rufus* of Eastern Australia, showing no approximation to either *M. isabellinus* or *M. magnus*.

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Mr. Lydekker, on behalf of Mr. Rowland Ward, F.Z.S., exhibited the horns and skin of a male specimen in the winter coat of the Sheep which, on the evidence of specimens in the summer dress, he had named *Ovis sairensis* ('Wild Oxen, Sheep and Goats,'

<sup>1</sup> Cat. Mars. B. M. p. 27, 1888.

p. 185, 1898). The skin of this ram was of a greyish-brown colour above, with a light saddle-shaped patch on the back, a white caudal disk, which did not include the tail, and the legs below the knees and hocks pure white, as were the under-parts. Above the caudal disk was a dark brown band; the shoulders and thighs were as dark as the back; and on the nape of the neck was a tuft of very long slate-coloured hair, which was dark brown at the roots. This tuft was also present in a female skin; a much



Male of Little's Sheep (*Ovis sairensis*), in winter coat.

shorter one occurred in a female head of *O. ammon*, but it was absent in *O. poli*. From the latter in winter dress the present specimens also differed by the dark shoulders and thighs. The development of a white caudal disk in the winter coat alone was another peculiarity of *O. sairensis*. The specimens were said to have been obtained in the Irtysh valley, which drains the Semipalatinsk Altai.

In this connection Mr. Lydekker desired to call attention to an error in his work entitled 'Wild Oxen, Sheep and Goats of All Lands,' where it was stated that the face and lower part of the legs of *O. ammon* were always white, whereas they were so only in the typical race during summer, and then might be better described as dirty white.

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Mr. Lydekker likewise exhibited the skulls, horns, and skins of a male and female Ibex obtained with the preceding specimens, which he thought might possibly belong to *Capra sibirica dauvergnei*. In the ram the general colour of the fur was light brown, with a